



California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

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Linda S. Adams

Secretary for

Environmental Protection

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD CENTRAL VALLEY REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Committees of the Central Valley Salinity Policy Group

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Water Resources Control Board have formed a Central Valley Salinity Policy Group to aid in development of a long-term, comprehensive salinity management plan for the Central Valley. The Policy Group has formed an executive committee and committees to address technical, socio-economic and outreach aspects of the salinity plan. The topical committees will meet in the morning and report to the executive committee in the afternoon of 21 March. All of these meetings are open to the public.

A quorum of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board and/or the State Water Resources Control Board may be present at one or more of these meetings.

The meetings are scheduled as follows:

DATE: March 21, 2007

TIME: 10:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Technical, Social-Economic and Outreach Committees will meet from 10:00 a.m. to noon. The Executive Committee will meet from 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.

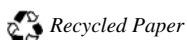
PLACE: Cal/EPA Building, 1001 I Street, Sacramento

Check the sign in the lobby for room assignments

Early arrival is advised, as all visitors to the building are required to check in at the Cal/EPA desk upon arrival. Valid picture identification may be required due to the security level so please allow up to 15 minutes for this process.

The Cal/EPA Building is accessible to people with disabilities. Public parking is available across the street from the building. A map of the exact location is available at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/EPAbldg/location.htm>. Individuals who require special accommodations are requested to contact Karen White at (916) 341- 5883 at least five (5) working days prior to the meeting. Persons with hearing or speech impairments can contact us by using the California Relay Service TDD. TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) is reachable only from phones equipped with a TDD device. HEARING IMPAIRED RELAY SERVICE: TDD to voice 1-800-735-2929, voice to TDD 1-800-735-2922.

California Environmental Protection Agency



Anyone having questions regarding the meeting should contact Gail Cismowski (916-464-4608) or Jim Martin (916-464-4685). Interested parties may view information and documents related to the development of a Central Valley salinity management plan at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/cv-salts/index.html> .

Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone you know who would be interested in this matter.

original signed by: _____

KENNETH D. LANDAU
Assistant Executive Officer
March 9, 2007

AGENDA
for
Social and Economic Impact Study Committee Meeting
3-21-07

10:00 Welcome and introductions
- Select notetaker

10:10 Background: Regional Board Staff
- Role of CVSPG
- Status report on the salinity management effort

Discussion: Mission of the Social and Economic Impact Study Committee

Discussion: Tasks of the Social and Economic Impact Study Committee

10:30 Status Report on the UCD contract work, followed by questions,
comments and suggestions

11:30 Immediate Issues and Tasks

Committee Membership – Are there additional individuals or entities that
should be here?

Discussion of a Communication Plan

Determine and assign administrative duties
Committee Chair
Secretary

Scheduling and frequency of meetings

12:00 Adjourn

CVSPG Social and Economic Impact Study Committee Briefing

Central Valley Salinity Policy Group has formed a Social and Economic Impact Study Committee to provide direction and guidance in the assessment of the social and economic impacts of salinity. Assessing and identifying those impacts will be a critical component in developing sustainable alternatives for long-term salinity management in the Central Valley. Initially, the work of this Committee will center on the socioeconomic assessment work being done under contract with the University of California – Davis (UCD). The Committee will guide the implementation of the contract and assess the work performed under contract, making recommendations for how this information can be used and integrated into future efforts.

Background and Resources

The [Salinity Overview Report](#) (2006) provides a big-picture look at the current situation.

An earlier effort that has influenced Valley salinity policy is the [Rainbow Report](#) (1990) and its [follow-up](#) (2000).

These and other reports, programs and policies that have relevance to this effort: can be found on the CV-SALTS webpage:

<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/cv-salts/index.html>.

UCD Contract

The workplan for the economic study being conducted by UCD is included. The contract terminates December 31, 2007. Approximately \$370,000 from the contract will be available for project administration; data identification, collection and compilation; data analysis and modeling, and report preparation. Remaining funds under this contract (\$130,000) are earmarked for developing stakeholder involvement and capacity-building activities for the CVSPG.

Starting assumptions

The major ionic substances in water are calcium, magnesium, sodium, potassium, bicarbonate, sulfate, chloride, and nitrate. The Board considers all of these materials “salt”.

Central Valley salts may be contaminated with additional constituents of concern, such as selenium. The Rainbow Report identified areas on the west side where selenium and other constituents occur but there is considerably less information of this nature available for other parts of the valley.

Water column salinity increases through two primary mechanisms: evapoconcentration and addition. Every water user contributes to the problem.

Because Central Valley water movement is dominated by the state and federal water projects, salt originating in one basin is often transferred to another. The impacts experienced in the basin of origin will not necessarily be the same impacts experienced by the receiving basin.

We are starting with an incomplete picture. The full geographic extent of problem salinity and at-risk aquifers is unknown. A great deal of data has been collected in certain areas but there are many information gaps Valley-wide. The full magnitude and significance of the impact on the region and on the state are therefore unknown, although some general predictions can be made based on information available and impacts observed in other parts of the world when insufficient mitigating action has been taken.

There is no existing entity with the comprehensive ability to both manage and regulate Central Valley salinity.

Tasks of the Social and Economic Impact Study Committee

- 1) Review the UCD work plan and provide comments and recommendations for work plan adjustment in order to better serve the needs of the project
- 2) Develop criteria and mechanisms for on-going assessment of UCD work and work products
- 3) Assess the appropriateness and effectiveness of UCD work and work products at the current stage, midpoint, and end of the project; and, if necessary, recommend changes that will facilitate improved work products and better integration between this and future efforts
- 4) Recommend how future social and economic impact efforts should be prioritized, planned, and organized based on the information and understanding developed during the initial contracting work
- 5) Based on the assessment of existing modeling tools, identify areas where a new model or models might be beneficial and identify entities with the capability to develop such models

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- 6) Based on what is learned through this effort, recommend future actions likely to lead to the implementation of effective salinity management projects and a comprehensive salinity management plan for the Central Valley.
 - 7) If feasible with the information collected, identify specific regional projects that may further CVSPG goals of comprehensive salinity management consistent with existing Board policies and programs.
 - 8) Estimate the time needed and identify the likely cost of implementing identified projects
 - 9) Identify potential resources that could be utilized for future data collection and analysis efforts

Mission of the CVSPG:

The mission of the Central Valley Salinity Policy Group is to work closely, in a collaborative manner to create a comprehensive Central Valley Salinity Management Plan.

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Mission of the CVSPG Social and Economic Impact Committee:

The mission of the Social and Economic Impact Committee is to provide guidance and direction for the on-going assessment of the social and economic impacts of salinity on the Central Valley and the State of California as an essential component in the development of a comprehensive Central Valley Salinity Management Plan.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY COMMITTEE COMMUNICATION PLAN

Internal:

- On March 21, 2007, Water Board staff will chair the morning meeting of the Social and Economic Impact Study Committee. A note-taker will be assigned at the meeting's outset.
- Before the close of the meeting on March 21, the Committee will select a Chairperson and Secretary to serve for the coming year.
- Meeting agendas and announcements will be the responsibility of the Chairperson
- Meeting attendance will be possible via teleconferencing
- Preparation and transmittal of meeting minutes (e-mail) will be the responsibility of the Secretary

External:

- All external communication on behalf of the Social and Economic Impact Committee will be through the Steering Committee